CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Cancel claims 2 and 5 without prejudice.

Please amend claim s 1, 3 and 9 and add new claims 11-15 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version set forth below. Entry is respectfully requested.

The optional complete set of "clean" claims pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3) is attached hereto as Appendix B.

1. (Amended) A liquid pharmaceutical formulation consisting of from about 0.6 to 24 MIU/ml of interferon-beta, mannitol, an acetate buffer at a pH between 3.0 and 4.0 and, optionally, albumin.

3. (Amended) A liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, in which interferon-beta is recombinant.

9. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, comprising combining interferon-beta with mannitol, an acetate buffer at a pH between 3.0 and 4.0 and, optionally, albumin.

11. (New) A process for the preparation of a liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 9 in which interferon-beta is recombinant and is in a quantity between 0.6 and 1 MIU/ml.

12. (New) A process for the preparation of a liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11 in which the interferon-beta is 1 MIU/ml, the mannitol is 54.6 mg/ml, and 0.5 mg/ml of albumin in a solution of 0.01 M acetate buffer at pH 3.5 is employed.

13. (New) A container hermetically sealed in sterile conditions comprising the liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 12 and appropriate for storage prior to use.

14. (New) A container hermetically sealed in sterile conditions comprising the liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11 and appropriate for storage prior to use.

15. (New) A liquid pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 8, in which interferon-beta is recombinant.